

THE  
COPIE OF A  
LETTER WRITTEN

from Master T. M. neere Salisbury,  
to Master H. A. at London, concerning the  
*proceeding at Winchester; Where the late L.  
Cobham, L. Gray, and Sir Griffin Marcham,*  
all Attainted of his Treason, were  
ready to be executed on Friday  
the 9. of December

1603:

At which time his Majesties Warrant,  
*all written with the hand, whereof the*  
true Copy is here annexed, was deli-  
vered to Sir Benjamin Tickbourne high  
Sheriffe of Hampshire, commanding  
him to suspend their execution  
till further order.



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by E. B.

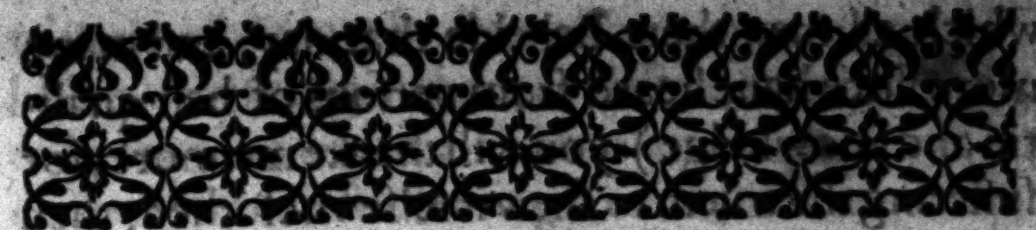
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LETTER WRITTEN  
from Master T. M. neere Salisbury,  
to Master H. A. at London, concer-  
ning the proceeding at  
Winchester, &c.**



**S**IR, I haue recei-  
ued a Letter from  
you, by which I per-  
ceiue, howe much  
you desire to be par-  
ticularly enfourmed  
of the cause and ma-  
ner of the stay of the  
late Lord Cobhams,  
Lord Grayes, and Sir  
Griffin Marckhams  
Execution, appoin-

ted at Winchester: wherein, although there are  
many better able to discourse at large of such an  
Action then my selfe; yet I conceiue (when you  
haue perused this plaine and true Relation, of that



2

which all men there behelde that day, and many more since haue heard from persons of best qualitie and knowledge) you will thanke me more, for suffering the truth to shew it selfe vnclothed, then if I had laboured to haue deliuered you a Tale well painted with curious words and fine phrases.

You must therefore vnderstand, That as soone as the Arraignmēts were passed at *Winchester*, his Maiesties priue Counsel (to the number of fourteene or fifteene, of which companie all of them had either bene tryers of the Noble men as their Peeres, or sitten as high Commissioners vpon the Gentlemen) were called before his Maiestie (in his priue Chamber) at *Wilton*, where hee commanded them to deliuer (without respect to any person) the true Narration onely, of the order in the Triall of these persons that had bene condemned by the Lawe, and of the nature and degree of their offences, as had appeared in every one of them by their seuerall answers.

All which being cleerely and iustly reported by them, (each speaking in the hearing of the rest) his Maiestie (for his part) vsed himselfe so grauely and so reseruedly in all his speeches, as well to themselves at that time, as also to all other persons after in private or publique, as neither any of his priue Counsell, Nobilitie, or any that attended neere to his sacred Person, durst presume to mediate for any, or so much as to enquire what should be the conclusion of this proceeding.

In the meane time, while the Court was full of  
which  
A  
varietie



varietie of discourse, some speaking out of probability, others arguing out of desire, what was like to bee the fortune of all, or of any of these offenders; His Maiestie hauing concluded onely in his owne secret heart (which is the true oracle of grace and knowledge) in what manner to proceed, (and that without asking counsell of any earthly person) It pleased him to resolue (betweene God and himselfe) that their Execution should be stayed, euen at the instant when the Axe should be layde to the Trees rootes. For the secret and orderly carriage whereof, his Maiestie was carefull to preuent all cause or colour of suspicion, of that Iudicious Royall, and vnexpected course which followed. And therefore, after the two Priests were executed on Tuesday the 29. of November, and Master *George Brooke* on Munday following, his Maiestie on the same day, being the fifth of December, signed three Warrants, for the Execution of the late Lord *Cobham*, *L. Gray*, and *Sir Gryffin Marchmont* Knight, with particular direction to the Sheriffe, to performe it on Friday after before ten a clocke in the morning.

All these directions being now become notorious, both by the Writs of execution (which passed vnder the great Seale) and by the making ready the Scaffolds at *Winchester*, His Maiestie very secretly (as now appeareth by the Tequels) drew himselfe into his Cabinet, on Wednesday before the day of Execution, and there privately framed a



Warrant written all with his owne hand, to the Sheriffe, by vertue whereof, hee countermaunded all the former directions, alledging the reasons therein mentioned: Of which seeing no mans Pen can so well expresse, as his owne, I send you the Copie *verbatim*, as I tooke it out of the Originall, which many read in my Cousin Sir Benjamin Tichbournes hand.

And now to come to the ordering of this businesse, among many other circumstances, It is very remarkable, with what discretion and foresight, that person was elected, which must bee vsed in carriage of the Warrant. First his Maiestie resolved, it should be a Scottishman, being thereby like to be freest from particular dependencie vpon any Nobleman, Counsellours, or others, their friends or Allyes. Next hee resolved, to send a man of no extraordinarie ranke, because the standers by should not obserue any alteration, nor the delinquents themselves should take any apprehension of such a mans being there at that time: This being his Maiesties speciall desire, that euery one of them (being seuerally brought vpon the Scaffold) might quietly breath forth their last wordes, and true confession of his secretest conscience. And so (to be short) his Maiestie made choise of M. *Iohn Gibb*, a Scottishman (as aforesaid) a man that had neuer dealt with any Counsellor, or other, for suite or businesse, but one that had (within short while after the Kings first entrie) beene sent backe into Scotland,



land, from whence he was but now freshly arrived at *Wilton* some fewe dayes before.

This party being by the King approoued for an ancient, trustie, and secret seruant (as a Groome of his Maiesties bed-chamber) & a man (as is said before) little knowen, and lesse bound to any Subiect in England for any benefit, receiuing the Warrant secretly on Thursday from the Kings owne hand, & telling his fellowes (who would otherwise haue missed him) that he must lie that night at *Salisbury* vpon some priuate businesse of his owne, he rode directly to *Winchester*, and there, keeping himselfe priuate all night, rose earely in the morning on Friday, and went obscurely to the Castle greene, where the people flocking in all the morning, as the time drewe neere, hee put himselfe with the throng, close by the Scaffold, and there leaned till the Sheriffe brought vp sir *Griffin Markham* to the place, who was the man appointed first to die.

There the sayd Sir *Griffin Markham*, hauing ended his praier, and made himselfe ready to kneele downe, M. *John Gibb* finding it fit time, while the Axe was preparing, to giue some secret notice of his charge, called to my cosin *Tichborne* the Sheriffe, to speake with him, and then deliuered him (priuately) his Maiesties warrant, with further directions verbally, how he should vse it.

Hereupon the Sheriffe perceiving fully his Maiesties intention, so warily and discretely marshalled the matter, as hee onely called Sir *Griffin Markham* vnto him on the Scaffold, and told him,



that he must withdraw himselfe into the Hall, to be confronted (before his death) before those two Lords, that were to follow him, about some points that did concerne his Maiesties service: and so carrying *Markham* into the Hall, he left him there, and went vp hastily for the Lord *Gray* to the Castle, who being likewise brought vp to the Scaffold, and suffered to powre out his prayers to God (at great length) and to make his last confession, as he would answer it vpon his soule, when he was readie to kneele downe, to receiue the stroke of death, Master Sheriffe caused him to stay, and told him that he must goe downe for a while into the Hall, where finding Sir *Griffin Markham*, he willed him to tarry there till he returned.

Last of all, he went for the Lord *Cobham*, who hauing also ended his deuotion to God, and making himselfe ready to receiue the same blow, the Sheriffe finding the time come to publish the Kings mercie to the world, and to reueale his mysterie, he caused both the Lord *Gray*, and Sir *Griffin Markham*, to be brought backe to the Scaffold, and there, before them all three that were condemned, and in the hearing of all the company, notified his Maiesties warrant, by which he was authorised to stay the execution. Which strange and vnderferued Grace and mercie proceeding from a Prince, so deeply wounded without cause, or colour of cause giuen by himselfe towards them in any thing, but meereley contrary (to both the Lords especially) bred in the hearts as well of the offenders, as of the standers



standers by, such sundry passions, according to the diuers tempers of their minds, as to some that shall receiue those things by report, which others did behold with their eyes, my relation may rather seeme to be a description of some ancient History, expressed in a well acted Comedy, then that it was ever possible for any other man, to represent at one time, in a matter of this consequence, so many lively figures of Iustice & Mercy in a King, of Terror & Penitence in offenders, & of so great admiration & applause in all others, as appeared in this Action, carried only & wholly by his Maiesties owne direction.

The Lord *Cobham* (holding his hand to heauen) applauded this incomparable Mercie of so gracious a Soueraigne, aggrauating his owne fault, by comparing it with the Princes clemencie, wishing confusion to all men aliue, that should euer thinke a thought against such a Prince, as neither gaue cause of offence, nor tooke reuenge of ingratitude. O T

The L. *Gray*, finding in what measure this rare King had rewarded good for euill, and forborne to make him an example of discouragement, and terror to all men that hereafter might attempt to break the bonds of loyalty, vpon the passions of any ambition, began to sob and weepe for a great while, with most deepe contrition, protesting now, that such was his zeale & desire to redeeme his fault, by any meanes of satisfaction, as he could easily sacrifice his life, to prevent the losse of one finger of that royal hand, that had dealt so mercifully with him, when he least looked for it.

Sir *Griffin Marckham* (standing like a man astonished) did nothing but admire and pray. The people that were present, witnessed by infinite applause



plause and shouting the ioy and comfort, which they tooke in these wonderfull effects of grace and mercie, from a Prince, whome God had inspired with so many Royall gifts, for their conseruation, and would conserue for his owne glorie.

The crie being carried out of the Castle Gates into the Towne, was not onely sounded with acclamation of all sexes, qualities, and affections, but the true report diuulged since in all partes, hath bred in the woorst disposed mindes, such remorse of iniquitie, in the best such encouragement to loyaltie, and in those that are indifferent, such feare to offend, and generally such affection to his Maiesties Person, as perswades the world, that Sathan himselfe can neuer so farre preuaile with any, as to make them lift vp their hearts or hands against a Prince, from whom they receiue so true effects of iustice, and goodnesse.

To conclude therefore, I haue now done my best, to satisfie your desire, though I feele (to my grieve) how short I come to my owne wish, because I would haue expressed to the life (if it had bene possible) both the matter and the forme of this proceeding; of both which, the wisest men, that haue scene and vnderstoode all particular circumstances, are at the ende of their wits, to giue an absolute censure, whether of them both deserue greater recommendation, (this being most assured) that there is no Record extant, wherein so great wisdom and vnderstanding, so solid iudgement, so perfect a resolution, to giue way to no request,



quest, or mediation; so inscrutable a heart, so Roy-  
 all and equall a tempered mercie, after so cleare  
 and publike Iustice, haue euer concurred so de-  
 monstratiuely as in this late Action, wherein this  
 blessed King hath not proceeded after the manner  
 of men and of Kings, *Sed celestis Iudicis aterniq, Re-*  
*gis more*, whereof he shall be most assured to reape  
 these lasting fruites, of being beloued and fea-  
 red of all men, obeyed with comfort, and serued  
 with continuall ioy and admiration. And so for-  
 bearing to hold you any longer at this time, I end:  
 From my house neere *Salisburie*, the 15. of De-  
 cember. 1603.

*Your Loning Cousin and friend.*

*T. M.*





quest, or meditation; to insupportable heat, to Ray-  
 all and equal a tempered mercy, after to clear  
 and public like, have ever concerned to de-  
 monstratively as in this late Action; wherein this  
 blessed King hath not recorded after then an  
 of men and of Kings, and certainly I have always Re-  
 ceived, whereof he shall be most assured to reap  
 these lasting fruits, of being beloved and tes-  
 ted of all men, obeyed with content, and joined  
 with continual joy and admiration. And so for-  
 bearing to hold you any longer at this time, I end:  
 From my house near Salisbury, the 15. of De-  
 cember. 1603.

Your Loving Cousin and friend,

T. M.



B



A TRVE COPIE  
OF HIS MAIESTIES

Warrant written with his owne  
hand, and directed to the high She-  
riffe of Hampshire for stay of the execu-  
tion of the late L. Cobham, L. Gray,  
and sir Griffin Marckham at  
Winchester the 9. of De-  
cember 1603.



*Althoug*h it be  
true, that all well go-  
uernid and flourish-  
ing Kingdomes and  
common wealths, are  
establishid by Iustice,  
and that these two  
Noblemen by birthe,  
that are now upon  
the point of Execution, are for thair treasonable  
practises condemnid by the Lawe, and adiudgit  
woorthy of the execution thaireof, to the exemple



and terror of otheris; The one of thaim hauing  
 filthily practised the ouerthrow of the quhole King-  
 dome, and the other for the surprise of our owne  
 Personne; Yet in regaird that this is the first yeere  
 of our Raigne, in this Kingdome, and that neuer  
 King was so farre obleshid to his people, as we  
 haue bene to this, by our entrie heere with so hair-  
 tie and generall an applause of all sorts; Among  
 quhom all the kinne, friendis, and allies of the  
 saidis condemnid personnis, vaire as forduart, and  
 duetifull as any other our good Subiectis, as also  
 that at the very time of thair Arrainement none  
 did more freely & reddily giue thair assent to thair  
 conuiction, and to deliuer thaim into the handis  
 of Iustice, then so many of thair neereſt kins-  
 men and Allies (as being Peeris) vaiere vpon  
 thair Iurie; As likeuaise in regaird that Iustice  
 hath in some sort gottin course alreadie, by the  
 execution of the tuo Priestis, and George  
 Brooke, that vaire the principall plotteris and in-  
 tisairs of all the rest, to the embracing of the saidis  
 treasonabill Machinations; Vee thairfore (being  
 resoluid to mixe Clemencie with Iustice) aire  
 contented, and by these Presentis command you,  
 our present Sheriffe of Hampshire, to superseide  
 the Execution of the saidis tuo Noblemen, and to  
 take



take thaim backe to thair prison againe, quibile our  
 further pleasure be knowin. And since we will  
 not haue our Lawis to haue respect to personis, in  
 spairing the great, and strikking the meaner sort;  
 It is our pleasure, that the like course be also taken  
 with Marckham, being sorry from our hait,  
 that such is, not onely the beynous nature of the  
 saidis cōdemaid personis crime, but euen the cor-  
 ruption is so great of thair naturall disposition, as  
 the care we haue for the safetie and quiet of our  
 State, and good Subiectis, will not permit vs to  
 vse that clemencie tovardis thaim, quibich in our  
 owin naturall inclination, we might very easly  
 be persuadit vnto.

